

CYRUS B. DOPP.

---

JANUARY 27, 1904.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

---

Mr. HOLLIDAY, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 1287.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1287) granting an increase of pension to Cyrus B. Dopp, submit the following report:

This bill proposes to increase the pension of the soldier named therein from \$30 to \$50 per month.

Cyrus B. Dopp, now 63 years of age, served as a private in Company G, Nineteenth Michigan Infantry, from August 11, 1862, to June 10, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He was captured at Brentwood, Tenn., March 25, 1863, and paroled April 9, 1863, and is shown by the medical records of the War Department to have been under treatment in May, 1863, for intermittent fever and in July, 1864, for fever.

He is now pensioned under the general law at \$30 per month for disease of heart, chronic rheumatism, and disease of stomach.

A claim for increase of pension, filed July 13, 1899, was rejected in September, 1900, upon the ground that the disabilities of accepted service origin did not warrant a rating in excess of \$30 per month.

He filed medical testimony in July, 1899, to the effect that during that year he had partially lost the use of his lower limbs, requiring the aid and attendance of another person to dress and undress him and to prepare his food.

He was last examined on January 17, 1900, by the board of surgeons at Wausau, Wis., who stated that he had muscular rheumatism of both shoulders and arms, both hips and legs, and the arthritic type of both hands and elbows; that he can not grasp his knife and fork to feed himself; that his finger joints are enlarged and stiffened; that he has lost the power of sensory muscles, so that he is compelled to feed himself with a spoon; that his wife has to mix his food for him, and help him to dress and undress; that there is mitral insufficiency,

marked dilatation of the heart, with fatty degeneration; that for years past he has had spells of extreme dyspnoea and could not lie down nights in succession; that by reason of the weakened circulation his feet and hands are cedematous; that there is extreme distention of the stomach, which measures 7 inches by 13 inches, and is very tender; that he has much gas eructation and, by spells, a form of subacute gastritis; that he also has paralysis agitans, which is gradually increasing; that his right arm, shoulder, and elbow are in constant motion, with coarse tremor; that this, with muscular rheumatism, heart and stomach trouble, causes a tottering gait and disables him from all attempts at labor. His spine is evidently affected, in connection with the paralysis agitans. The board further stated as follows:

Each member of this board has been personally acquainted with claimant for the past six years and knows the facts set forth in this examination to be as given, and that he is prematurely aged and feeble and that his several disabilities are steadily increasing. He requires almost constant aid and attention of another person to prepare his food so he can feed himself, dress himself, and often to attend to nature calls. He requires the aid of others by reason of the pensioned causes alone. His paralysis agitans is not a material factor in necessitating the aid of another person.

The testimony of Doctors Spencer, Frost, Rosenberry, and Jones, filed with your committee, sets forth that the soldier's troubles of accepted service origin are growing constantly worse; that he is also suffering from paralysis agitans, resulting, in the opinion of the physicians, from the rheumatism; that he requires the aid and attendance of another person to attend to his daily wants, such as dressing and undressing, preparing food, etc.; that he is lame and requires the use of a cane while walking; that his finger joints are enlarged and crippled by rheumatic deposits, making it very difficult for him to feed himself or to grasp objects with his hand.

While no doubt the paralysis agitans is not a material factor in the necessity for aid and attendance, your committee believes, however, that, by reason of the rheumatism for which pensioned, the soldier requires certain aid and attendance, which, in the opinion of your committee, entitles him to an increase of his pension to \$40 per month.

The passage of the bill is therefore recommended when the same shall have been amended as follows:

In line 7 strike out the word "fifty" and insert in lieu thereof the word "forty."

In line 8 strike out the word "a" and insert in lieu thereof the word "per."